GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3189
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013
SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER
Das Shri Ram Sundar

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the sources of drinking water in the rural areas in the country at present;

(b) the accessibility and availability of drinking water in rural areas, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether more than 20 per cent of people in the country are getting water from unsafe sources including open wells; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to address this issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) The sources of drinking water in the country are piped water, handpumps, tube wells, wells and natural sources like springs, rivers, ponds etc.

(b) & (c) As per the Census 2011, 84.2% of the households in rural areas have access to drinking water from improved sources i.e covered wells, hand pumps and piped water supply. The status of households with access to drinking water from improved sources, State/UT wise is at Annexure I.

Regarding the availability of drinking water in rural areas, as per the Census 2011 figures, 77.9% of the rural households of the country have drinking water available within or near their premises, i.e. within a distance of 500 metres. The State/UT wise list is at Annexure II.

(d) Though water is a State subject, the Government of India is administering the centrally sponsored scheme, National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP) for providing financial and technical assistance to the States to supplement their efforts to provide adequate and safe drinking water to all rural habitations. Under the NRDWP, State Governments are empowered to plan, design, approve and implement rural drinking water supply schemes. A budgetary allocation of Rs. 11,000 crore has been made for NRDWP in 2013-14. Upto 67% of the NRDWP funds released to States can be utilized for providing adequate and safe drinking water to rural habitations. States are urged to prioritise the coverage of partially covered and quality affected habitations in their Annual Action Plans under the NRDWP.